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S E C R E T PRAGUE 000823

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EUR/NCE FOR FICHTE, PM/RSAT FOR DOWLEY, OSD/ISP FOR  
SADOWSKA, OSD/FP FOR IARROBINO AND MINATELLI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/19/2016  
TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [MASS](#) [MARS](#) [EZ](#)  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH CZECH PM ON MISSILE  
DEFENSE

REF: A. PRAGUE 771  
[1](#)B. PRAGUE 757  
[1](#)C. PRAGUE 803  
[1](#)D. PRAGUE 820

Classified By: Ambassador William Cabaniss  
for reasons 1.4 (b) + (d).

[1](#)1. (S/NF) Summary: The Ambassador met July 20 with Czech PM Jiri Paroubek to discuss the Czech candidacy to host a U.S. missile defense (MD) site. Paroubek was well prepared, sharing his opinion that the fall Senate and mayoral elections would make political handling of the MD issue more difficult. He made suggestions that might increase the effectiveness of the GOCR's own public relations campaign on MD. Paroubek made no requests for U.S. offsets, and did not mention a need for a referendum on the issue. End summary.

[1](#)2. (S/NF) The Ambassador met July 20 with Czech PM Jiri Paroubek to brief him on current U.S. thinking on missile defense. Paroubek explained that Deputy FM Thomas Pojar and Deputy DM Martin Belcik had kept him up to date on developments. Paroubek was aware of the content of Pojar's July 19 discussions with DASD Brian Green and Missile Defense Deputy Director BG Keith McNamara (septel). The PM expressed his support for the site survey process and for the agreed next step of sending a Czech team to Washington in August for in-depth dialogue on MD.

[1](#)3. (S/NF) Paroubek said he would prefer that the MD decision could be delayed until after the Senate and mayoral elections in the fall. If a Czech site is the preferred site, he thinks it could be a controversial campaign issue. He said he was concerned that a government decision to agree on establishing a missile defense site in the Czech Republic prior to these elections would be difficult. In response to the Ambassador's confirmation that a U.S. site recommendation for SECDEF Rumsfeld would likely be necessary by the end of August, Paroubek said that providing good information to the public would be crucial. He accepted the Ambassador's offer to provide any additional information he might need in this regard. Paroubek believed that, if a Czech site were to be selected, it would be appropriate for nearby local community leaders to visit a U.S. military facility to learn firsthand the experiences of the surrounding population. The Ambassador welcomed this suggestion. The PM noted that his (Social Democratic) party's support would be crucial for MD to go ahead in the Czech Republic. He agreed with the Ambassador that the July 19 poll claiming 83 per-cent opposition to MD was likely skewed (Ref D). The PM nodded his agreement that MD would place the Czech Republic in a leadership category in contributions to Europe and NATO. Paroubek made no request

for U.S. offsets and did not mention a need for a referendum  
on hosting a U.S. facility.  
CABANISS